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Työn nimi-Arbetets titel-Title <b>The Implications of EU membership conditionality on minority protection in Estonia. Short term compliance or sustained socialization?</b>		
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Tiivistelmä-Referat-Abstract  <p>The thesis explores the implications of European organizations on the minority protection in Estonia. The aim is to find out whether or not the conditionality used by the EU and enforced by the normative pressure of Council of Europe and OSCE in the membership negotiations resulted in permanent efforts by the political elites to improve minority protection. This is done by assessing the direction the minority protection has taken in the post-accession period.</p> <p>The theoretical framework consists of two models dominating the field of study: the rational choice based conditionality theory and the constructivist based socialization theory. The former offers an external incentives based model which suggests, on the one hand, that EU conditionality had the most significant impact on the Central and Eastern European Countries (CEECs), but on the other hand it also predicts that the compliance may deteriorate after EU membership has been gained. The latter model explains the effect of normative pressure on norms and values and proposes that the strategic calculation connected to compliance may develop into more norm-based behaviour. In addition to these theories the likely barriers to external influence on the domestic level are explained. These internal factors relate to the problems of democratic transitions, “stateness” and nationalisms, and to the historical legacies. They help to understand the sources of opposition which external pressure must break through in order to have an effect.</p> <p>The study is conducted by using the process tracing method, which explores the chain of events in the decision-making process by which initial case conditions are translated into case outcomes. This is done by unwrapping the cause and effect linking the independent variable and the outcome, and by breaking it into smaller pieces. Both primary and secondary data is used for conducting the study. The primary sources include parliamentary discussion, legislative texts, and regular content analysis of news reporting in Eesti Päevaleht, the main Estonian newspaper. In addition, a random selection of relevant newspaper articles from both Baltic and Finnish papers have been utilized. The secondary sources include monitoring reports of international organizations and of domestic and external NGOs, as well as various Estonian survey studies.</p> <p>The empirical findings suggest that the protection of the minorities has indeed deteriorated both on the legislative level and in form of implementation. This trend is also confirmed by the attitudes and motivations of the political actors. History is strongly present in the decision-making, and the government is pursuing a strategy of integration based mainly on the interests of the ethnic majority. However, there are signs of socialization on the centre-left of the political spectrum. The internationalization of the minority issues by the European organizations does not seem to have been very successful in the case of Estonia.</p>		
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